



Adriana Rodriguez of New Haven

Support for

S.B. 312: An Act Concerning Paid Sick Days.

H.B. 5356 An Act Concerning Pandemic Pay

Dear Representative Robyn Porter, Senator Julie Kushner and members of the Labor Committee,

My name is Adriana Rodriguez and I live in New Haven. I am a member of ULA - Unidad Latina en Acción and we are part of the Recovery For All Coalition.

I am submitting testimony in favor of:

- SB 312. A law for all workers to have Paid Sick Days.
- HB 5356. A law that would give a small economic recognition to ALL essential workers who risked our lives during the pandemic.

As an essential worker, migrant and woman, I want to join the voices of all the people who are uniting today, so that we can improve working conditions for *everyone*.

I am part of the large number of people who responded on the front lines in the midst of the pandemic. During the crisis, I worked in a laundry, cleaning houses, and cleaning a university. I had to go to work in person.

I was infected with Covid-19, and so was my husband and my two children. Neither my husband

nor I were able to collect unemployment, or any government assistance, because we are immigrants. Despite putting myself and my family at risk, to this day I have not received any assistance. I had to beg for food to be able to get some economic stability.

I support the Paid Sick Days bill, because I had a fall at my job three months ago. I could not go to work and I had no wages. The agency where I worked told me that they were going to pay me for the sick days, but I have been waiting for three months and they only give me delays. I could not get good medical care, because I do not have health insurance.

I could not stay home many days to recover from the fall because I could not afford to lose my paychecks. It would be money lost for my family and we are living paycheck to paycheck. I have to put my pain aside so I can go to work and give my children a decent life, even if I have to sacrifice myself.

We want to get the support we deserve. The Government of Connecticut has enough funds at this time to pass these two bills, and to make good on the Governor's words calling us essential workers.

We deserve to be treated the same as everyone else. We are not a burden. We are essential.

Thank you.